

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE AUG 1998		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-1998 to 00-00-1998	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Problems Connected with the Utilization of the Ammunition in Georgia				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) DoD Explosives Safety Board,Hoffman Building I, Room 856C,2461 Eisenhower Avenue,Alexandria,VA,22331-0600				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES See also ADM001002. Proceedings of the Twenty-Eighth DoD Explosives Safety Seminar Held in Orlando, FL on 18-20 August 1998.					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 3	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE UTILIZATION OF THE AMMUNITION IN GEORGIA

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As a consequence of the collapse of the USSR, Georgia, like other republics, came to face formidable problems related to the use of inherited military arsenal.

“Division” of the Soviet military inheritance between Russia and Georgia left the latter with an impressive amount of outdated, morally obsolete and unsorted armory, rocket fuel, etc. Apart from other hazards, they bear an environmental threat to the small country of a unique landscape. The danger is to be equally shared by neighboring countries.

Today, stores of Georgia’s military and civil organizations hold a great number of arms of various caliber and function: aircraft bombs, rockets, missiles. Alongside, a large stock of containers full of explosives, rocket fuel and inflammable solutions is maintained.

A special decree of President Sheverdnadze paved the way for inventorying and examining the arms, explosives and powder belonging to Georgia’s military and civil organizations.

As a result of activities implemented in military structures, departments, centrally managed bases and warehouses, conditions of storing and protecting weapons, explosives and powder have been notably improved. Fire precautions have also been tightened.

Despite the above mentioned measures many bases and warehouses are still deep in crisis.

For example, in one anti-aircraft base more than 500 containers of aircraft bombs, rockets, equipment containing explosive and toxic components are kept outdoors. Half of this quantity requires a detailed physical and chemical analysis and needs to be relocated to special storage places.

Part of containers and armory is corroded. There were instances of fuel leakage that saturated the surrounding soil. This drastically increases the danger of inflammation and explosion within the base territory that may affect civilian households within the range of 50 kilometers and could lead to other unanticipated results.

The total of technical and special equipment containing arms and explosives, controlled by the Ministry of Defense exceeds thousands containers in quantity and 1 billion US Dollars in value. It is estimated that the annual cost of maintenance of military storehouses and exertion of regular inspection on these stores is up to 15 million US Dollars.

The above distinctly demonstrates acuteness of the problem of arms utilization. On that account the issue is prioritized as one of national significance. It requires immediate and detailed research leading to a set of special measures to be taken on a governmental program level.

Permanent Inter-Sectoral Commission of the National Security Council working on military, technical issues assigned the following tasks to the Delta Institute:

- A. To inventory arms and explosives stored within Georgia,
- B. To examine their durability,
- C. To explore possibilities of their reconditioning and utilization.

The task of primary significance that we are facing is the one of rational utilization of arms of the aforementioned categories.

Georgia has never been among the major producer states of arms. Therefore, Georgian experts have not worked in the fields of arms production and their utilization.

The Delta Institute under the Ministry of Defense of Georgia was part of the Soviet military production system. It employs a staff of high-caliber experts that can be retrained and exposed to utilization methodology in a short period of time, providing that proper financial and technical support is available.

At present serious efforts are being made to access and study the relevant materials and experience of the countries, most advanced in the above fields.

Ukraine has become one of the main strategic partners that Georgia established dynamic relations with. Contacts have also been established with Bulgaria, Romania and France.

By participating in the conference we pursue the objective of establishing contacts with foreign companies that will assist in: a) designing a state program of utilization, b) sharing relevant experience of the leading countries, c) creating a proper base of standards and norms, d) seeking financial support for utilization needs.

We also regard it reasonable to include Georgia in the NATO “Partnership for Peace” program. These measures must guarantee proper protection of the Caucasus’ unique landscape and must secure the safety of transit routes through the region.

Utilization works require considerable financial spending. Georgia needs an estimate of 15 million US dollars to complete the task. The economic situation in the country gives no promise of anticipated solution in the near future, meanwhile the time is running.

Hence we can see that the country faces not only technical difficulties but also financial problems of equal significance.

Therefore, we request that the summarizing document of the seminar include Georgia in the list of countries requiring financial and technical aid in the above mentioned fields.